

The Daily Standard.

Friday, November 2, 1872.

The Victoria Board of School Trustees.

When the present School Act became law, it was fondly hoped that the educational interests of Victoria, which previously had been very sadly neglected, would be placed upon a sound footing, and that in future the management of our public schools would be such as to reflect credit upon the Government as the authors of the measure, and redound to the advantage of the children attending them. Nor can we see any reason why these anticipations should not be realized. The Act under which the public schools are organized is so plainly worded, so free from that legal verbiage in which Acts of Parliament are usually clothed, that a wayfaring man though a fool, need scarcely err as to the meaning of its various clauses. The powers of the Executive, the duties of the Board of Education, the Superintendent of Education, and the local Boards of School Trustees are each so clearly defined, so explicitly stated, that nothing but unpardonable obtuseness or a wilful desire to override the statute, could lead any one of these parties referred to to encroach upon the rights, duties or privileges of the other. But notwithstanding all this, ever since the opening of the schools there has been nothing but bickering, contention and misunderstanding between those having the working out of the details of the School Act. There is a conflict of authority going on which forbids no good to the cause of education in Victoria. By virtue of a provision in the new School Act, the Municipal Council of Victoria was constituted a Board of School Trustees for the city, and with every desire to see the schools opened, and the children of school going age enjoying the advantage of the means of instruction provided for them by the State, they entered upon the duties which the Legislature has imposed upon them. It devolved upon them to provide school houses, have them properly seated, and furnished with everything necessary to their proper and efficient working. In order to do this money was required, and acting upon advice they applied for such a sum of money as they deemed requisite to enable them to proceed with the work. The reply they received was to the effect that they were to proceed with the necessary works, and when the bills were sent in to the Government, endorsed by the Superintendent, they would be paid. This the Board looked on as a very polite way of informing them that they need expect no money from the powers that be for school purposes, save in payment of such bills as from time to time became due, and were certified by the Superintendent as correct. Although this determination of the higher powers appeared to the Board an undue exercise of authority, they acquiesced in it, as it mattered little to them whether the Treasurer of the Board had funds in his own keeping or not, so long as what money they required was forthcoming when asked for. The Trustees having yielded that point, the next step was to demand and examination of every bill for which payment was asked, before the Superintendent would give his endorsement for their payment. Not, we presume, because the Superintendent doubted the moral honesty of the Board, but because he conceived it to be incumbent on him to pursue that course on the ground that subsection eight of section eight of the Act defining his duties says that he shall "be responsible for all monies paid through him on behalf of public schools, and to give such security as the Lieutenant Governor may require." The evident meaning of that clause is—not that he shall have the right to haggle with the Board of Trustees about their accounts, or either to add to or take from them, but that he shall give his endorsement to no demand for money on schools' account that has not been approved by the Board of School Trustees and come to him through that medium. For instance, the Trustees Board at Williams Creek require for the use of the school a stove or a water-buck—they purchase one and they draw on the Treasury through the Superintendent of Education, whose endorsement is necessary, for the money to pay for it—does the Act contemplate that the merchant's bill for the article must be laid before the Superintendent before he is at liberty to endorse the draft? We contend that it does not, and that when the Superintendent makes such a demand he goes beyond his legitimate authority. Every Board of School Trustees under the Act is a body corporate, having clearly defined powers, over which the Superintendent has no control whatever. Having appointed a Secretary and Treasurer, it is their duty to "give such security as may be required by a majority of the Trustees for the correct and safe keeping and forthcoming, when called for, of the papers and monies belonging to the Corporation, and for the correct keeping of a record of their proceedings in a book procured for that purpose, and for the receiving and accounting for all school moneys which shall come into his hands, and for the disbursing of such moneys in the manner directed by the majority of the Trustees." Now, if the above quotation from the Act does not contemplate that the Board of School Trustees for each District shall be made the recipients of such sums of money as they may require for school purposes, having to run to the Provincial Treasury for every dollar they need to pay the most trivial item of expenditure that may arise, we are at a loss to conceive what meaning is attached to it. School Boards are also required to prepare and read at the annual meeting of their Districts an annual school report for the year that terminated, "and such report shall include among other things, a full and detailed account of the receipt and expenditure of all school money received and expended in behalf of such district,

for any purpose whatever, during such year." Now, if the Victoria School Trustees are not to be entrusted with the custody of any money whatever, which is the standard taken by the Executive authorities, how can they furnish the required statement of receipts and expenditures? And how is it possible for Boards at a distance to be governed by the rule laid down with reference to the Trustees of the Victoria schools? Why the Government should seek to impose restrictions upon the Trustees of this city that they cannot enforce against those of other Districts, is best known to themselves; but if they think that any body of respectable citizens will consent to make of themselves hewers of wood and drawers of water, spend their time to the neglect possibly of their own private affairs, and be treated with dignified contempt, if not suspicion, and all for the glory of the thing, we fear they will find out their mistake. The Board contend that they are entitled to such an appropriation from the school fund as they deem requisite to meet the current expenses of the schools for a period of say three or six months at a time, and it seems to us that what they ask is not at all unreasonable.

New Advertisements.

MUNICIPAL NOTICE.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT the Nomination of Mayor and Councillors to be elected at the ensuing year, will take place on the 12th day of November, A.D. 1872, at the Police Barracks, at 12 o'clock, noon, and the Poll (if any) will be taken on the 13th day of November, at the same place, viz: For Mayor and two Councillors for the City of Victoria, and for two Councillors for the James Bay Ward, at the City Hall, in front of the Police Barracks. For two Councillors for the John Street Ward, at the City Hall, in front of the Police Barracks. For two Councillors for the Victoria Ward, at the City Hall, in front of the Police Barracks. The Poll will be kept open from 8 o'clock A.M. till 4 o'clock P.M. City Council Chambers, B.C., October 21st, 1872. WILLIAM LEIGH, Clerk of the Municipal Council.

J. C. TRACY.

AUCTIONEER & COMMISSION MERCHANT,

CONSIGNMENTS of Fruit, Flour, Butter, received by every steamer.

Salesroom St. Nicholas Building, Government Street.

Regular Sales every Wednesday at 11 o'clock.

Consignments solicited, Prompt Returns and moderate charges guaranteed.

Sale attended in any part of the city or vicinity.

Best city reference given.

AUCTION SALE.

Will Sell at Salesroom,

Saturday, November 2d.

AT 10:30 O'CLOCK A.M.

A Large Variety of

General Merchandise

OF THE

"FRANKLIN'S EXPRESS."

THE UNDERSIGNED RESPECTFULLY

announces to the Public of Victoria, that he

has commenced business in the above line and solicits a

share of their favor and trade that by care, attention

and dispatch, to merit a continuation of the same.

Orders left at the Grocery Store of Mr. Finlayson,

Government Street, will be promptly attended to.

STAND on Government, opposite London House,

and near Fort Street.

WILLIAM A. FRANKLIN.

OF THE

THEATRE ROYAL.

Continued Success of the

GREAT EASTERN

VARIETY TROUPE

NEW ACTS!

NEW DANCES!

NEW BALDADS!

NEW FIRST PART!

AND

MR. BARRY O'NEIL

LIGHTING CHANGES!

To be Sold

ON VERY REASONABLE TERMS,

a full sized of on Fort Street, with a roomed

hardwood house in good repair and building.

Apply to

F. ALLSOP & CO.,

Government Street.

IN THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

SESSION 1872, 1873.

City of Victoria, Water.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT

application is intended to be made to the Legis-

lative Assembly during the next ensuing session for leave

to bring in a Bill to incorporate a Company to be called

The City of Victoria Waterworks Company, and to enable

the Company to construct and maintain works for

supplying the City and District of Victoria with water,

and to construct and maintain reservoirs, aqueducts,

ditches, drains, conduits, embankments, pumps, sluices and

other engines necessary for the purpose of bringing pure

water from Elk Lake to Victoria with power to make

deviations and to take water from Prospect Lake, Swan

Lake, and Cedar Hill Lake, or any of them; and to

make necessary works for such purpose, and to erect,

alter, divert, or stop up any roads, streets, public

places, bridges, works, pipes, sewers, drains, streams,

and water courses, and to purchase by completion or

otherwise any lands and other hereditaments requisite for

the purposes of the Bill, and to make further sums of

money, and to incur any liability, or to borrow on

the credit of the Company, or by all or any of such means,

to enable the Company to carry out the objects and

charges for the supply of water, and to make provisions

for preventing the waste of water supplied, and to

adopt proper regulations in reference thereto.

The Bill will vary and extinguish all existing rights,

and privileges which would interfere with its objects, and

will incorporate with itself all or some of the provisions

of the Bill now in force, and of the Bill now in force,

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New Advertisements.

JOSEPH W. TRUTON.

PROVINCE OF BRITISH COLUMBIA.

VICTORIA, by the Grace of God of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, Queen, Defender of the Faith, &c., &c., &c.

To all to whom these presents shall come,—

GREETING.

A PROCLAMATION.

WHEREAS a Bill in

Attorney-General, titled "An Act to

amend the Qualification and Registration of

Voters Act, 1872," was reserved for the con-

sideration of His Excellency the Governor

General in Council.

NOW KNOW YE, that said Bill having been

laid before the Governor General in Council,

His Excellency has been pleased to assent to

the same, and the said Act is now in force

accordingly.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, we have caused

these Our Letters to be made Patent, and

the Great Seal of Our said Province to be

hereunto affixed: WITNESS,

the Honorable JOSEPH WILLIAM TRUTON,

Lieutenant-Governor of our said Province

of British Columbia, Our City

of Victoria, in the said Province, this

26th day of October, in the year

of Our Lord one thousand eight hun-

dred and seventy-two, and in the

thirty-sixth year of our Reign.

By Command,

A. ROCKE ROBERTSON,

Provincial Secretary.

EXECUTORS' SALE.

HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE.

KIRKMAN PIANO.

HANDSOME SILVERWARE

Extra Large Music Box.

Gold Jewellery.

BRUSSELS CARPETS.

Henry Rifle, Single and

Double Barrel Guns and

Derringer Pistols.

Lace & Damask Curtains.

&c. &c. &c.

J. P. DAVIES & Co.

Have been instructed by the Executors

of the late

Capt Swanson

TO SELL BY

PUBLIC AUCTION

On the Premises

DALLAS ROAD.

Tuesday, 5th Nov.,

AT 11 O'CLOCK A.M.

All the Superior Furniture,

consisting of in part:

Mahogany Chairs, Sofas, Easy and Rock-

ing Chairs, covered in horse hair,

Whotons, Card, Centre and Other

Tables,

Extra Large Japanese Cabinet, very

handsome.

A New 7 Octave

KIRKMAN PIANO.

A very fine Instrument.

Brussels Carpets and handsome Rugs,

Model of a Brigantine,

Maple Side Board, Book Case, a few

Choice Books.

1 Henry Rifle, 3 Derringer Pistols,

1 Kummel Rifle, 1 double barrel Shot

Gun.

Looking Glasses, Cane Arm Chairs,

Ornament Clock and Glass Shade, Gold

Chain, 3 Rings, Silver Watch, Brace-

let, Thimble, Buckle, Brooch and

Earrings, Work Boxes, Aneroid Baro-

meter, Engraving Lamp, Glassware,

Very fine Musical Box,

Silver Plated Tea and Coffee Set,

China Tea Set,

Salters, Spoons, Forks, Ornaments, Ser-

vant, Field Glass and Chessboard.

Bed Room Furniture.

Hair and Pile Beds, Bolsters and Pil-

lows, Blankets, Sheets, Counterpanes,

China Travelling Trunks, Ornaments,

Lot Choice Fruit Trees.

Usual Kitchen Furniture.

Lot valuable Charts from the latest

Survey of Rear Admiral Richards,

Lot Clothing.

Ladies' Dresses, Dress Goods, handsome

Paisley Shawl, &c.

House with Three Lots to Rent,

J. P. DAVIES & Co.,

Auctioneers, Wharf Street.

Lost.

ON THE 26th AUGUST, in Victoria, a Doe

Bill drawn by Messrs Smith & Smith in favor of A. L.

Jackson, or bearer, for the sum of twenty-five dollars.

The Bill is payable to the order of the

Drawer, and is signed by A. L. Jackson.

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